



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/806,731	03/23/2004	Franklin Anthony Holub	003C.0030.U1(US)	2541
29683	7590	03/09/2006	EXAMINER	
HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212			LEON, EDWIN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/806,731

Applicant(s)

HOLUB, FRANKLIN ANTHONY

Examiner

Edwin A. León

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5-7, 9, 19 and 20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 8, 10, 12-14, 16, 17 and 21-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 15, and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed November 25, 2005 in which new Claims 21-24 have been added, has been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-4, 8, 10, 12-14, 16-17 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okayasu (U.S. Patent No. 6,419,515). With regard to Claim 1, Okayasu discloses an electrical connector comprising: electrical contacts (26); and a first (20) housing member having contact receiving areas (23), wherein the electrical contacts (26) are located in the contact receiving areas (23); and a second (10) housing member connected to the first (20) housing member, wherein the first (20) housing member comprises a mating electrical connector latch (44) comprising a latch surface (47) at a front end (from 42 to the distal end of 44 opposite to the surface 47) of the latch (44) and a lever arm (54) extending rearward from the front end (from 42 to the

Art Unit: 2833

distal end of 44 opposite to the surface 47) of the latch (44), wherein the lever arm (54) is sized and shaped to pivot on top of a portion (16) of the second housing member (10). See Figs. 1-10.

With regard to Claim 2, Okayasu discloses the first (20) housing member comprising a first deflectable arm (first part of 43, which is connected to 47) connecting the latch to the first (20) housing member, wherein the first deflectable arm (first part of 43, which is connected to 47) is connected to the latch (44) at the front end of the latch (44). See Figs. 1-10.

With regard to Claim 3, Okayasu discloses the first (20) housing member comprising a second deflectable arm (second part of 43, which is connected to 47) connecting the latch (44) to the first (20) housing member, wherein the a second deflectable arm (second part of 43, which is connected to 47) is connected to the latch (44) at the front end (from 42 to the distal end of 44 opposite to the surface 47) of the latch (44). See Figs. 1-10.

With regard to Claim 4, Okayasu discloses the first and second deflectable arms (first and second parts of 43, which are connected to 47) being connected to the first (20) housing member proximate a center section of the latch (44). See Figs. 1-10.

With regard to Claim 8, Okayasu discloses an electrical conductor seal (24), wherein the second (10) housing member comprises a seal retainer (inside surface of 12), which is connected to the first (20) housing member to retain the seal (24) with the first (20) housing member. See Figs. 1-10.

With regard to Claim 10, Okayasu discloses an electrical connector housing comprising: a first (20) housing member comprising a movable mating electrical connector latch (44), the latch (44) having a first end (from 42 to the distal end of 44 opposite to the surface 47) with a latching surface (47) and an opposite second end (from 42 to 41); and a second (10) housing member connected to the first (20) housing member, the second (10) housing member comprising a latch overstress protection section (16) comprising a portion (17) of the second (10) housing member being sized and shaped to be contacted by the second end (from 42 to 41) of the latch (44) to limit movement of the second end (from 42 to 41) of the latch (44) in an outward direction.

See Figs. 1-10.

With regard to Claim 12, Okayasu discloses the first (20) housing member comprising a first deflectable arm (first part of 43, which is connected to 47) connecting the latch (44) to the first (20) housing member, wherein the first deflectable arm (first part of 43, which is connected to 47) is connected to the latch (44) at the first end of the latch (44). See Figs. 1-10.

With regard to Claim 13, Okayasu discloses the first (20) housing member comprising a second deflectable arm (first part of 43, which is connected to 47) connecting the latch (44) to the first (20) housing member, wherein a second deflectable arm (first part of 43, which is connected to 47) is connected to the latch (44) at the first end of the latch (44). See Figs. 1-10.

With regard to Claim 14, Okayasu discloses the first and second deflectable arms (first part of 43, which is connected to 47) being connected to the first (20) housing member proximate a center section of the latch (44). See Figs. 1-10.

With regard to Claim 16, Okayasu discloses the second end (from 42 to 41) of the latch (44) comprises a projection (52) located beneath the latch overstress protection section (16) of the second (10) housing member. See Figs. 1-10.

With regard to Claim 17, Okayasu discloses an electrical conductor seal (24), wherein the second (10) housing member comprises a seal retainer (inside surface of 12), which is connected to the first (20) housing member to retain the seal (24) with the first (20) housing member. See Figs. 1-10.

With regard to Claim 21, Okayasu discloses an electrical connector comprising: electrical contacts (26); a first housing member (20) having contact receiving areas (23), wherein the electrical contacts are located in the contact receiving areas; a seal (24) on the first housing member; and a seal retainer housing member (29) connected the first housing member and retaining the seal on first housing member, wherein the first housing member comprises a mating electrical connector latch (44) comprising a latch surface (47) at a front end of the latch and a lever arm (54) extending rearward from the front end of the latch, and wherein the lever arm comprises user contact surface (upper surface of 44) at a rear end of the lever arm which is located over the seal retainer housing member.

Art Unit: 2833

With regard to Claim 22, Okayasu discloses the mating electrical connector latch comprises two deflectable arms (parts of 43 connected to 47) fixedly attached the first housing member at two spaced points (points in which the arms connect to 42).

With regard to Claim 23, Okayasu discloses the two deflectable arms comprise front ends connected to the front end of the latch and rear ends connected to the two spaced points.

With regard to Claim 24, Okayasu discloses an electrical connector comprising: electrical contacts (26); and a first housing member (20) having contact receiving areas (23), wherein the electrical contacts are located in the contact receiving areas; and a second housing member (10) connected to the first housing member, wherein the first housing member comprises a mating electrical connector latch (44) comprising a latch surface (47) at a front end of the latch and a lever arm (54) extending rearward from the front end of the latch, wherein the lever arm comprises user contact surface (upper surface of 44) at a rear end of the lever arm, wherein the mating electrical connector latch comprises two deflectable arms (parts of 43 connected to 47) wherein the two deflectable arms comprise front ends connected the front end of the latch and rear ends fixedly attached to the first housing member at two spaced points (points in which the arms connect to 42).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 5-7, 9 and 19-20 are allowed for the reasons stated in the Office Action of March 28, 2005.
5. Claims 11, 15, and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims for the reasons stated in the Office Action of March 28, 2005.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed November 25, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to Applicant's arguments regarding Claims 1 and 10, that the Okayasu reference shows two electrical connectors and not an electrical connector, Applicant's attention is directed to Column 2, Lines 28-32 in which Okayasu clearly discloses "a waterproof connector comprises a male connector housing 10 and a female connector housing 20". There is no disclosure suggesting that housings 10 and 20 are separate connectors. By disclosing a waterproof connector, Okayasu clearly discloses a single electrical connector. The fact that housing parts 10 and 20 mate each

other does not preclude the Okayasu reference from meeting Applicant's claims in their broadest interpretation.

In response to Applicant's arguments regarding Claims 1 and 10, that the Okayasu reference doesn't show a mating electrical connector latch, Applicant is reminded that parts 10 and 20 mate each other. Therefore, latch 44 can be considered a mating electrical connector latch.

In response to Applicant's arguments regarding Claim 1, that the Okayasu reference doesn't show locking arm (40) being sized and shaped to pivot on top of a portion (16) of the second housing member (10), Applicant's attention is directed to Figs. 9-10, in which Okayasu discloses the locking arm (40) being sized and shaped to pivot on top of a portion (16) of the second housing member (10). Applicant is reminded that the claims only call for the locking arm to pivot on top of a portion of the second housing member. The claim does not call for the locking arm to use a top of a portion of the second housing member to pivot. Therefore, it is the Examiner's opinion that Applicant's claims would still read on the Okayasu reference in their broadest interpretation.

In response to Applicant's arguments regarding Claim 10, that the Okayasu reference doesn't show stopping member (16) limiting the movement of the second end (from 42 to 41) of the latch (44) in an outward direction, Applicant's attention is directed to Fig. 9 in which Okayasu clearly discloses stopping member (16) limiting the movement of the second end (from 42 to 41) of the latch (44) in an outward direction

Art Unit: 2833

(direction in which 10 and 20 are disconnected). Housings 10 and 20 cannot be separated since part 16 limits their movement.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Edwin A. León
Edwin A. León
AU 2833

TRUC NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EAL
January 31, 2006